



**KING COUNTY
MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD
ALCOHOLISM AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD**

LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

February 2, 2005

4:00-5:30 PM

Conference Room 6B, Exchange Building
821 2nd Ave., Seattle, WA 98104

Meeting Minutes

Attending:

Roger Goodman (Chair/KCASAAB)
Linda Brown (KCASAAB)
Eleanor Owen (Vice Chair/KCMHAB)

Ron Sterling (KCMHAB)
Kim Murillo (KCASAAB)
Eugene Wan (KCMHAB)

Absent:

Visitors:

Frank Jose, NAMI Greater Seattle

Staff:

Amnon Shoenfeld

Geoff Miller

- I. **Introductions were made**
- II. **Draft Agenda was adopted by unanimous consent.**

Available in alternate formats upon request.

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III. Legislative Forum

- A. The 2004 Legislative Forum was discussed. It was noted by several members that this was "...best legislative forum we've had..." and the forum was well received by those attending including the legislators. Following the same format for the forum in 2005 would be excellent.
- B. Discussion about moving the forum to other areas of the county concluded that there is a need to assure input from individuals in all geographic areas of the county, but holding the forum at the same location or same geographic area will help establish a "brand identity" for our forum. The location of the forum or alternate ways to assure opportunities for citizen input will be discussed with the two boards.
- C. Discussion of the format, time, location, and logistics of the forum concluded that everyone was very pleased with how well this legislative forum went.

IV. Legislative Session

- A. Amnon Shoenfeld and Frank Jose were interviewed by KUOW. The issues impacting mental health including the funding were included in the interview. Both did exceptional jobs in representing and articulating the issues and concerns facing the mental health system and King County.
- B. Roger Goodman discussed the Hargrove sponsored Omnibus Mental Health and Chemical Dependency legislation. Amnon noted a concern about how involuntary commitment was handled in the legislation. Roger noted that included in the bill was a significant start on funding chemical dependency treatment for youth and adults. The bill will be formally introduced in the near future.
- C. Mental Health Parity legislation was moving rapidly with supporters on both sides of the aisle. It looks positive at this point, but we should still monitor and take every opportunity to continue to voice our support for this legislation.
- D. A number of prescription drug bills are in the legislature. Each has slightly different take on how to impact prescription drug cost and what to do with the savings. The boards' position continues to be that a portion of the savings

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needs to return to the mental health and chemical dependency systems to preserve and enhance services.

- E. Modifications to the Drug Offender Sentencing Alternative are being sponsored by Rep. Kagi. This is positive move that would allow a move to residential chemical dependency treatment in lieu of continued incarceration.

V. Other Items

- A. Roger Goodman noted that the King County Bar Association has recently adopted a position calling for **“State Regulation and Control of Psychoactive Substances.”** For the full text and other information see the King County Bar Association web site at the following address:
<http://www.kcba.org/druglaw/proposal.html>.
- B. Meeting changes were discussed. In the future should a meeting need to be changed or canceled, the chair will poll the members and make a decision on the canceling or rescheduling.
- C. February 23, 2005 meeting is canceled.

March 23, 2005 4 PM to 5:30 PM Conference Room 6B, Exchange Building 821 2 nd Ave., Seattle, WA 98104

For information call Geoff Miller, King County Mental Health, Chemical Abuse and Dependency Services Division (206) 205-1136.

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